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EDUCATION WEEK

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Districts Resorting to 'Pay-To-Play' Option

For Students, Extracurricular Means Extra Costs

By Ellen Flax

For some schools' team sports, fees can amount to several hundred dollars.

Making the squad of an interscholastic team at Michigan's Lapeer High School requires more than just athletic prowess—students must also pay $275 each.

The stiff, pay-to-play policy became necessary, school officials say, after Lapeer voters in October rejected for a second time a property-tax boost that would have benefited the district.

Since then, the school system has had to fire 30 teachers, close its libraries, and trim course offerings. The $275 student charge per high-school sports team—and the $175 fee for junior-high teams—is one more sign of austerity, Lapeer officials say.

And they are not alone.

In many financially hard-pressed districts across the country, officials are struggling to maintain services once thought to be part and parcel of a free public education. And some, like those in Lapeer, have decided that charging fees—for opportunities ranging from band membership to enrichment courses—offers the best way to balance the books.

Because the decision to levy a fee is almost always made at the local level, no one can say exactly how widespread the practice is. Anecdotal evidence suggests, however, that fees are commonly linked with budgetary problems and thus could

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Drug-Test Policy Targets Workers In Indian Schools

Federal Agency Cites Need for 'Role Models'

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—Virtually all employees of federally operated Indian schools—including teachers, administrators, school-bus drivers, and even aides—would be subject to random drug testing under a new policy set by the Department of the Interior.

The department's November announcement of the program was pursuant to a 1987 executive order by President Reagan requiring all Cabinet agencies to develop drug-test programs for their employees. Only the Interior and Defense Department plans would affect blocs of school personnel.

"Drug usage would make it difficult for these people to function properly and there is a great danger that students would be more susceptible to use of drugs," the Interior Department contends in a document justifying the inclusion of approximately 3,000 teachers and guidance counselors in the testing pool.

"Long before drug use becomes manifest in a teacher's erratic classroom performance, that teacher's function as a role model and transmitter of societal values is likely to have been seriously compromised," the document says.

The department also argues that teachers must not "facilitate" drug problems that are "rampant" on some Indian reservations.

According to a department spokesman, Alan Levitt, the testing policy is to go into effect early in 198 . About 15 percent of the

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Lawmakers Pass Bill To Revamp Chicago Schools

By William Snider

The Chicago Public Schools will become the site of the nation's largest experiment with locally controlled schools under landmark legislation passed late last week by Illinois lawmakers.

Despite fierce partisan battling that cast doubt on the bill's fate until moments before the legislature adjourned for the year, lawmakers in both houses approved the bill by overwhelming margins, and Governor James Thompson has committed himself to signing it.

The first impact of the bill after it takes effect next July will be the dissolution of the Chicago Board of Education and the naming of an interim board to run the system during the first stages of the massive restructuring process called for in the bill.

It will also set in motion a process by which parent-led boards will be elected for each of the district's more than 600 schools in preparation for the transfer of considerable autonomy to the local school sites.

Each board, which will also include the school principal, teachers, and community members, will have the authority to hire and fire its principal, develop a school-improvement plan, and, over time, take control of much of the school's budget.

Chicago's principals will lose life-time tenure, but will gain the right to select new teachers and other educational staff without regard to their seniority. They will also assume new control over support staff members, such as custodians and cafeteria workers.

A last-minute compromise over an issue that had been considered closed extended the length of principals' performance contracts from three to four years. In addition, only half of the district's principals will come under the new rules in 1990, while the

Continued on Page 13

New Public-Awareness Project Aims To Focus on the 'High-Risk' Young

By Lisa Jennings

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—Authorities on juvenile crime and delinquency met here last week to plot out a national public-awareness campaign designed to bring new vigor to the fight to save "high risk" youths—and the nation at large—from the devastation of destructive behavior patterns.

Discussions at the first-ever "High-Risk Youth Practicum," held at Yale University, covered many of the problem areas familiar to educators dealing with the so-called at-risk learner: poverty, physical abuse, parental neglect, and other socio-economic deprivations.

But the relationship of these problems to the group targeted as "high risk"—those likely to turn to drugs and perhaps to crime—was the meeting's chief focus. And it is here, participants said, that schools and other community agencies have too often been willing to turn a blind eye.

"No one has wanted to take responsibility for these kids," said Joyce Thomas, president of the Center for Child Protection and Family Support in Washington. "They are just not a popular constituency. It's not as if we were talking about cute little kids with braces."

What was talked about at the meeting—

Continued on Page 21

Key Beliefs About TV's Ill Effects Remain Unproven, Study Finds

By Mark Walsh

Many commonly held beliefs about television's impact on children—including its deleterious effect on reading, homework, and attention span—are either wrong or are unsupported by research, according to a new federally funded study.

But the University of Massachusetts at Amherst scholars who prepared the analysis say research on the medium's influence on cognitive development continues to be "scarce," and in some important areas is totally lacking.

"It is difficult to conclude that television has no major effects," write the psychologists Daniel R. Anderson and Patricia A. Collins, in a new working paper published by the U.S. Education Department.

But sporadic funding, methodological difficulties, and other obstacles, they say, have made scientifically gauging those effects an elusive quest.

"Because children spend so much time with television, it would appear that TV must have a major impact on schooling," the authors write. "If it does, the nature of that impact has yet to be determined."

They call for more long-term studies of

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Agency for Instructional Technology

Studies of television's impact on learning are "scarce," researchers say.

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Investigations of alleged drug use and other illegal activities by officials of New York City's community school districts have created a major crisis for Chancellor Richard R. Green. **Page 5.**

Special-Education Money Woes
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College or the Military?
Despite the appeal of military service for some high-school graduates, recruitment by the armed forces is not a competitive threat to higher education, according to a recent study. **Page 8.**

Inner-City Pledge
Merrill Lynch & Company has launched the most sweeping of recent corporate-support tuition programs by promising to pay college costs for 250 1st graders in 10 inner cities. **Page 9.**

Washington State Reform Ideas
An economic-development panel in Washington State has proposed controversial education reforms, including a pay-for-performance plan for educators and more school choice for parents. **Page 10.**

Garden State Finance Fight
New Jersey's supreme court has given officials an April deadline for completion of yet another round in the decade-long legal battle over the state's system of financing public schools. **Page 11.**

Quotas for Asians Alleged
Universities in California and elsewhere may be using illegal quotas to limit the number of Asian-American students accepted, some federal officials have charged. **Page 15.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Carnegie Task Force To Study Restructuring of Middle Grades

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has created a new task force on the education of young adolescents, with the goal of developing plans for the restructuring of education in the middle grades.

"The traditional junior high school has failed as an institution to meet the unique and critical needs of young adolescents," said David Hamburg, president of the corporation. "The enormous opportunity for intellectual and personal development during early adolescence is simply wasted for millions of American youngsters."

The task force is part of the corporation's Council on Adolescent Development. It will examine all aspects of middle-grades education, including school organization and classroom practices, curriculum, health and counseling services, relations between schools and families, and school-community linkages.

David W. Hornbeck, former Maryland superintendent of education, will chair the panel, whose 17 other members include national leaders from education, government, health, journalism, and youth services. The task force will issue its final report next June.

■ **Private trade and technical schools will have to work to improve services for at-risk students,** under new standards for accreditation prepared by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools.

The standards require schools that enroll a significant number of "ability to benefit" students—those admitted without a high-school diploma or General Educational Development certificate—to offer special training assistance, personal counseling, and job-placement support.

The standards also require such students to participate in a screening process that includes a third-party review and appropriate testing.

STATES

Groups Contend N.Y. Scholarships Violate Federal Civil-Rights Laws

The New York State Education Department has violated federal civil-rights laws by awarding scholarships solely on the basis of scores on college-admission tests, four groups charged in federal court last week.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York Public Interest Research Group, and the National Center for Fair & Open Testing claim that such use of tests discriminates against women, since men consistently outperform women on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Testing program.

The department annually awards $40 million in scholarships to about 26,000 high-school seniors. Responding to charges of bias, the legislature in 1987 changed the scholarship policy to grant awards on the basis of high-school grades, rather than test scores. As a result, the proportion of women who won scholarships rose substantially in 1988, according to the plaintiffs.

But the revised policy was discontinued, in part because of charges that schools had manipulated grades to secure awards.

Robert Schaeffer, a spokesman for FairTest, said the groups hoped to prod the legislature, which had convened for a special session, into revising the policy again.

DISTRICTS

Federal Court Bars Restraints On Unofficial Student Publications

Prior restraint by school officials of unofficial or "underground" student publications is unconstitutional, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled.

The decision represents a significant elaboration of the Supreme Court's decision in *Hazelwood School District* v. *Kuhlmeier*, issued last January, in which the Court held that school administrators have sweeping authority to regulate school-sponsored publications.

The appeals panel held that the authority granted by the *Hazelwood* decision does not apply to unofficial newspapers and publications, which are essentially "communications among students."

The decision came in a case involving five students at Lindbergh High School in Renton, Wash. In 1983, the students wrote "Bad Astra," a four-page newspaper that criticized attendance policies and contained a mock teacher-evaluation poll. They distributed it at a senior-class barbecue.

The students were reprimanded under a school policy that required all material written by students for distribution on campus to be submitted to officials for approval.

The court directed that the reprimands be removed from the students' records.

Rapes of Students in Detroit Prompt District, Police Actions

Elementary- and middle-school students in Detroit are being taught how to be more "street safe" in the wake of three rapes last month.

Superintendent Arthur Jefferson has met with police officials to discuss the addition of patrols around schools during the hours that students would be arriving or leaving, according to a spokesman for the district. And elementary and middle-school students are being trained to follow certain safety rules while walking on the streets.

The most recent incident occurred when a 12-year-old student at Rosa Parks Middle School was attacked on the way to school. Earlier, a 17-year-old student was raped on her way to Denby High School, and a 13-year-old was sexually assaulted at Carstens Elementary School.

By last week, police had made an arrest only in connection with the assault on the high-school student.

■ **Prince George's County, Md., will be the first school system in the nation to host a space-science laboratory commemorating the crew of the space shuttle Challenger,** officials said last week.

The Challenger Learning Center will be housed on a site adjacent to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center.

State and local goverment and private industry will provide $345,000 to establish the facility, which will be affiliated with the national Challenger Center for Space Science Education.

Students will use the new facility and an existing planetarium to take part in a simulated mission to Halley's Comet.

When the Maryland center opens next fall, it will join a network of three others established by the C.C.S.S.E. in science museums in Boston, Houston, and Seattle.

■ **A jury has awarded $125,000 in damages to a former New York City high-school student who claimed she was illegally strip-searched by school officials.**

The state-supreme-court jury voted 6-0 in the favor of Kim Stevens, who was a senior at Herbert Lehman High School when the search occurred.

In October 1984, school officials saw Ms. Stevens with a manila envelope that they thought might contain marijuana. She was taken to a back office, completely stripped, and examined, according to Richard Emery, Ms. Stevens' lawyer. No illegal drugs were found.

Lawyers representing New York City and the board of education have indicated

Los Angeles Times

MEMORIAL TO AIDS VICTIM—Annabelle Fried and a student at the Oak School in Los Angeles examine a book in the school's library, which was recently dedicated in honor of her late son, Zachary. The 5-year-old died of AIDS last year.

they will appeal the jury's decision.

■ **The Parkway, Mo., public schools discriminate against handicapped students by failing to accord them federally mandated due-process and equal-access protections,** a lawsuit filed in federal court contends.

The lawsuit charges that Parkway school officials have not informed parents of handicapped students of their rights to special-education services or provided them with a mechanism to appeal the district's decisions on referring students for services. Handicapped students in Parkway and other districts in St. Louis County are served by a special school district.

"The fundamental problem is a complete deferral of responsibility from the local district to the special district," said Kenneth M. Chackes, a lawyer with Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services.

■ **An Abilene, Tex., high-school teacher was in fair condition last week, after being shot in the head Nov. 22 as his first-period class was ending.**

School officials say Rick Maloney, a teacher at Abilene Cooper High School since 1981, apparently was shot by a 16-year-old student. Most of the other students had already left the classroom, but about half a dozen witnessed the attack.

The exact motive for the shooting is not known, but school officials speculate that the alleged assailant was unhappy over a grade.

A hearing is scheduled to determine whether the student, whose name was not released, can be tried as an adult. Officials say the student had no prior record of serious discipline problems.

■ **The Prince George's County, Md., teachers' union has blasted a proposal to offer individual schools performance-based cash incentives,** calling it an effort to introduce merit pay.

The "rough draft" of a plan to offer cash awards for "exemplary performance at the schoolhouse level" has been circulated among the school system's 171 principals by Superintendent of Schools John A. Murphy. The proposal would challenge schools to compete to improve test scores, attendance, and other factors.

But the union has already mailed letters to businesses and community leaders arguing that the plan places too much emphasis on improving test scores.

DIMENSIONS

The Biggest and the Best-Educated

The widely varying educational and demographic characteristics of the nation's 3,139 counties, parishes, and other local jurisdictions are chronicled in the U.S. Census Bureau's new *County and City Data Book, 1988*.

The counties listed below were found to have the largest school enrollments and the highest levels of educational attainment in the nation; at the opposite end of the spectrum, the data show, are Loving, Tex., with 100 inhabitants and no public-school pupils, and Coosa, Ala., where fewer than 4 out of every 100 adults have a four-year college degree.

The statistics on adults with 16 or more years of education come from the 1980 census, the most recent source of such information on the county level.

Copies of the data book are available for $36 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402; stock number 003-024-06709-9.

County Public-School Enrollment, 1986-87		Counties with highest percentage of adults with 16 or more years of school, 1980	
Los Angeles, Calif.	**1,368,386**	**Los Alamos, N.M.**	**47.8%**
Kings, N.Y. **	**938,606**	**Pitkin, Colo.**	**46.2**
Cook, Ill.	**746,499**	**Falls Church, Va.***	**44.9**
Dallas, Tex.	**508,313**	**Montgomery, Md.**	**42.8**
Harris, Tex.	**502,724**	**Arlington, Va.**	**42.5**
Orange, Calif.	378,000	Fairfax, Va.	41.8
Wayne, Mich.	361,819	Orange, N.C.	41.3
San Diego, Calif.	353,115	Alexandria, Va.*	40.9
Maricopa, Ariz.	320,411	Williamsburg, Va.*	40.3
Dade, Fla.	243,690	Gunnison, Colo.	39.6
Suffolk, N.Y.	**238,356**	**Summit, Colo.**	**38.7**
San Bernardino, Calif.	**235,579**	**Johnson, Iowa**	**38.6**
Santa Clara, Calif.	**232,530**	**Howard, Md.**	**38.5**
Bexar, Tex.	**221,199**	**Marin, Calif.**	**38.3**
King, Wash.	**198,749**	**Whitman, Wash.**	**36.8**
Cuyahoga, Ohio	190,833	Benton, Ore.	36.6
Philadelphia, Pa.	190,119	Boulder, Colo.	36.4
Tarrant, Tex.	189,694	Tompkins, N.Y.	36.3
Middlesex, Mass.	189,155	Washtenaw, Mich.	36.1
Alameda, Calif.	184,707	San Miguel, Colo.	35.9
Nassau, N.Y.	**180,716**	**Albany, Wyo.**	**35.5**
Oakland, Mich.	**170,124**	**Douglas, Kan.**	**35.1**
Riverside, Calif.	**169,481**	**Clarke, Ga.**	**35.0**
Salt Lake, Utah	**165,056**	**Boone, Mo.**	**34.7**
Honolulu, Hawaii	**164,336**	**Eagle, Colo.**	**34.6**
United States	40,024,299	United States	16.2
		*Independent City	

** Figure includes enrollment for all five boroughs of New York City.

Tammy Lechner/Los Angeles Times

Annya Bell

PEOPLE

■ A Los Angeles teacher last week vowed to continue her solo hunger strike to bring about improved "teacher benefits and rights."

Annya Bell, a 1st-grade teacher at the 42nd Street School, began fasting on Nov. 17 to help focus public attention on stalled contract negotiations between the school district and United Teachers-Los Angeles.

The city's 32,000 teachers, who have been without a contract since last June, are seeking an immediate 12 percent pay raise, an end to yard duties and clerical work, and more involvement in curriculum planning. The school board has offered a 17 percent raise over three years.

The Los Angeles Public Employment Relations Board has appointed a state mediator, who was scheduled to meet with union and district officials this week in an effort to settle the stalemate.

Ms. Bell, a 19-year teaching veteran who earns $42,000 a year, said she planned to fast until the district meets the union's demands. She is continuing to teach, she said, while drinking fluids and being monitored by a physician.

"I come here every day energetic and ready to begin," she said. "I am an advocate of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and passive resistance, and I know sometimes you have to sacrifice in order to bring a change."

Donald Schrack, a media consultant to the U.T.L.A., said that the union had not sanctioned Ms. Bell's hunger strike.

In a separate protest organized by the union in September, more than 25,000 teachers continue to boycott yard duties and other "unpaid, uneducational" duties. The employment-relations board recently denied the district's request to seek an injunction barring the boycott.

MILESTONES

■ Mother **Katharine Drexel**, a Philadelphia nun who established schools for blacks and American Indians, has been beatified by Pope John Paul II.

By proclaiming Mother Drexel worthy of veneration, the Pontiff also made her eligible to be canonized as the second American-born saint. The first was Mother Elizabeth Seton, who was canonized in 1975.

Mother Drexel, who died in 1955 at the age of 96, used a multi-million-dollar inheritance to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. The order presently maintains 20 schools in 12 states.

Mother Drexel also founded Xavier University of Louisiana.

■ **Rachel J. Andresen**, founder of one of the oldest and largest high-school student-exchange programs, has died at age 81.

In 1951, while a teacher in the Detroit public schools and executive director of the Ann Arbor-Washtenaw County Council of Churches, Ms. Andresen established the Youth for Understanding International Exchange.

Ms. Andresen became the program's executive director, overseeing its growth into a network that now organizes exchanges for some 7,000 students a year in 27 countries.

Ms. Andresen was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971. She retired in 1973.

UPDATE

■ **The New York State Board of Regents will remove a passage that was denounced as racist from its dropout-prevention manual,** Commissioner of Education Thomas Sobol has said.

The manual, which was distributed in 1987 to some 15,000 educators, stated that certain groups of students at risk of dropping out of school—particularly blacks and those having handicaps or limited English proficiency—have "learning styles" that are different from those of other students.

(See Education Week, Oct. 14, 1987.)

In response to widespread criticism of the passage, the education department appointed a task force on the issue. Associating specific learning styles with groups of students could lead to stereotyping, the panel found, urging the board not to encourage the practice.

The new edition of the manual, scheduled to appear next summer, will point out that different students learn in different ways, according to Christopher Carpenter, a spokesman for Mr. Sobol. But it will not refer to blacks or other groups as having particular learning styles, he said.

Corrections

Due to an editing error, an article in the Nov. 23 issue incorrectly stated that Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin is opposed to a parental-choice plan for the Milwaukee school district that would include parochial schools. Robert S. Peterkin, the Milwaukee superintendent, has said that he opposes such a plan. Mr. Thompson has not ruled out the parochial-school option, as implied in the story, but has not yet advanced a formal proposal.

Due to an editing error, an article in the Nov. 9 issue incorrectly referred to the Stanford Teacher Assessment Project as part of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. TAP is neither sponsored nor funded by the national board. It is a separate project, supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to Stanford University.

A story in the Nov. 30 issue incorrectly reported that Undersecretary of Education Linus Wright had agreed to accept a position with the Paul R. Ray, Inc. recruiting firm before stepping into his post at the Education Department. Mr. Wright said that while he had talked to the firm before coming to the department, he did not accept a position there until September of this year.

Study Finds No Competition for Graduates Between the Military and Higher Education

The increasing attractiveness of military service for some high-school graduates does not pose a competitive threat to higher education, a new report by the American Council on Education concludes.

The study rebuts claims that recruitment by the armed forces has reduced the proportion of high-school graduates going on to college. The slight rise in the percentage of recent male graduates joining the military between 1979 and 1986, it notes, was more than matched by the increase in those going on to college.

And, it says, the educational benefits provided under the New G.I. Bill will in fact be a boon to colleges.

"Over the past decade," the report says, "it appears that both the colleges and the military have cast their nets more widely but, in aggregate terms, have not cut into each other's share of high-school graduates."

At the same time, it notes, the share of male high-school graduates directly entering the workforce has decreased, from almost 42 percent in 1979 to 34 percent in 1986.

But the picture for black males differs significantly, the report says. Both colleges and the armed forces have attracted a declining proportion of recent high-school graduates from that group, it notes.

Instead, it says, more black males are entering the workforce soon after graduation. In 1986, some 46 percent of recent black male graduates were counted as members the labor force, whether employed or unemployed. That proportion was 6 percentage points higher than in 1979.

Over the same period, the report says, the percentage of young black male graduates not working, not enrolled in college, and not serving in the military more than doubled, from 6 percent to 13 percent.

That proportion includes those not actively seeking jobs, as well as those attending trade or technical schools.

Boost From G.I. Bill

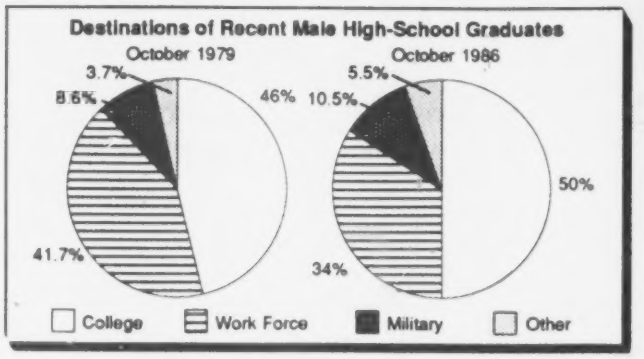
The study, "Joining Forces: The Military's Impact on College Enrollments," was written by Holly Hexter, an A.C.E. staff writer, and Elaine El-Khawas, the group's vice president for policy analysis and research.

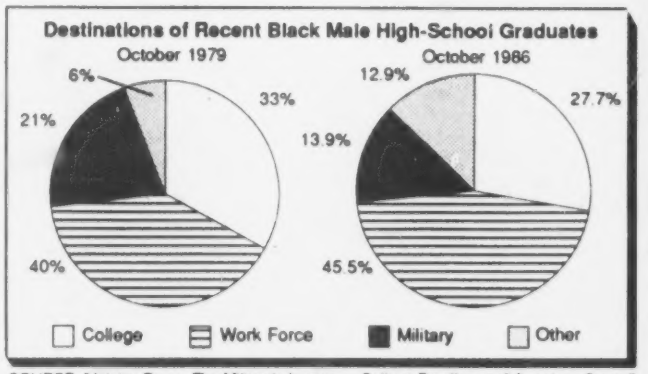
The authors say several factors have enabled the military to meet its personnel needs without seriously affecting college enrollments: improved retention rates for enlisted personnel, the increased proportion of female recruits, and the growth in the pool of high-school graduates through 1979.

Any enrollment losses due to greater "competitive pressures" from the armed services in coming years, they write, are likely to be "more than offset by the extent to which the military brings business to higher education" by offering educational aid.

For example, they note, the number of veterans and reservists enrolled in colleges could jump by 25 percent by 1993 as a result of the New G.I. Bill, which took effect in 1985. The program—a successor to the original G.I. Bill of Rights adopted after World II—provides up to $10,800 in education aid for a three-year enlistment.

Copies of the report are available from the A.C.E., Division of Policy Analysis and Research, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036-1193. The cost is $5 for members and $8 for nonmembers. —M.W.





SOURCE: "Joining Forces: The Military's Impact on College Enrollments," American Council on Education.

A.C.T. Assessment To Be Substantially 'Enhanced'

By Mark Walsh

The American College Testing program in January will begin mailing information kits to high schools about what it is calling "the Enhanced A.C.T. Assessment."

The kits will describe forthcoming changes in the standardized college-admissions test, which officials say is undergoing significant changes on the basis of a five-year research effort.

The revised test will no longer contain social-studies and natural-sciences sections; they will be replaced by sections on reading and science reasoning.

The English and mathematics sections will remain, but there will be a new emphasis on writing and problem-solving skills, said David S. Crockett, the A.C.T.'s vice president for public affairs.

"What we are trying to do is have the test reflect what is really being taught in high school and measure skills that colleges said are important," Mr. Crockett explained.

Response to Educators

The A.C.T. was taken by more than 1 million college-bound students last year; it is the predominant college-admissions test in 28 states. The Scholastic Aptitude Test, administered by the College Board, was taken by 1.5 million students and is predominant in 22 states.

Both testing organizations have seen a need to provide educators with more help in using test results for academic counseling and course placement. That was a major reason for the research that began on the A.C.T. five years ago, its officials say.

The College Board cited similar concerns this year when it embarked on a review of the S.A.T.

Both tests have also been attacked as biased against women and minorities, but Mr. Crockett said the A.C.T. was not being revised in response to such claims.

Focus on Reading, Reasoning

The social-studies and natural-sciences sections of the A.C.T. were dropped because they were of limited use to educators, Mr. Crockett said, and the skills involved could be woven into the new reading and science-reasoning sections.

The test will be lengthened by 15 minutes, to 175 minutes, and the number of multiple-choice questions will be reduced from 219 to 215.

The reading test will comprise four passages in the areas of fiction, the humanities, natural science, and social studies.

The content of the science-reasoning test will come from biology, chemistry, physics, and the physical sciences. Advanced knowledge will not be necessary because the section will stress reasoning skills, according to officials.

The English test will feature an increased emphasis on writing skills and style, while the math test will have more trigonometry.

The A.C.T. will also provide more subscores. The English test will have subscores in rhetorical skills and usage and mechanics; the math section will have subscores in beginning algebra, intermediate algebra and coordinate geometry, and plane geometry and trigonometry; reading subscores will be provided in fiction, humanities, social studies, and natural sciences.

The new A.C.T. will be given for the first time next October. A test for sophomores, the P.A.C.T.+, was given in the new format last year.

University Awarded Grant To Study Possible Regulation of Tests

In a step that could lead to stronger regulation of the testing industry, Boston College's center for the study of testing, evaluation, and educational policy has begun a two-year study to determine whether an independent body should monitor the industry's practices and products.

The study, funded by a $197,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, will examine existing governmental, independent, and industry-based regulatory bodies to see if those models are appropriate for the testing field, according to George F. Madaus, the center's director.

Mr. Madaus said that his "own bias" is against government regulation, but that he did not want to prejudice the study in any way.

The study will examine the history and operations of such federal regulatory agencies as the Food and Drug Administration, as well as those of independent bodies such as Consumers' Union and industry-run watchdog groups such as the Underwriters Laboratory.

The major producers of achievement and college-admission tests recently took a step toward self-regulation by adopting a code of fair testing practices in education. The code is aimed at enunciating to educators and the public the standards to which the industry intends to adhere. *(See Education Week, Nov. 16, 1988.)*

Such standards are exemplary, Mr. Madaus said, and the code represents the industry's first attempt to recognize "that there are consumer issues that have to be addressed."

But it is insufficient, he added, to ensure that tests are fair to users.

"There is no enforcement mechanism, and there are very general statements," said Mr. Madaus, who helped develop the code as a co-chairman of the joint committee on testing practices. "There is no body to interpret whether things are in the code or not."

After completing the two-year study, the center plans to try out a proposed regulatory model using selected tests, he said. If the pilot regulation proves effective, the center will set up a regulatory body. —R.R.

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